

Appin. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated November 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 15 and 16, and amend claims 1 and 4-14 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for responding to a site access in which a service provider site for providing contents via a communication network transmits, when an access request is made from a requesting terminal, contents of the service provider site to the requesting terminal in response to the access request, the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service provider site, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not the access request is made via a specific site affiliated with the service provider site one of the affiliation sites based on whether the access request includes the identifier of the one of the affiliation sites;

changing a part of the contents to be transmitted to the requesting terminal to predetermined information corresponding to the specific site one of the affiliation sites when the access

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request is made via the ~~specific site~~ one of the affiliation sites; and

transmitting the contents including the predetermined information to the requesting terminal to wait for a user verification request from the requesting terminal to start service provision; and

storing user information of the requesting terminal relating to the service provision into a session control table relating to the one of the affiliation sites.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

accumulating a service usage time of the service provider site when the access request is made via ~~the specific site~~ one of the affiliation sites; and

determining a charge based on the accumulated service usage time every predetermined period of time and conducting a charging

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procedure to an enterprise of the ~~specific site~~ one of the
affiliation sites.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A method for verifying a user
who makes an access request to a service provider site via a
communication network, the service provider site storing
identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service
provider site and user verification information for members of
each of the affiliation sites, the method comprising the steps
of:

determining whether or not the access request is made via a
~~specific site which is affiliated with the service provider site;~~
one of the affiliation sites based on whether the access request
includes the identifier of the one of the affiliation sites; and

conducting user verification based on the user verification
information which is registered with the specific site when the
access request is made via one of the affiliation sites the
~~specific site and conducting user verification based on user
information registered with the service provider site when the
access request is not made via the specific site.~~

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended). A service information providing method in which a service provider site provides via a communication network to a user terminal a service ~~items~~ item corresponding to an access request from the user terminal, the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites
5 affiliated with the service provider site, the method comprising the steps of:

providing to the user terminal a predetermined contents corresponding to a service designated by the user terminal;

10 receiving a response information relating to the provided contents from the user terminal via the communication network and determining whether the response information is transmitted from one of the affiliation sites based on whether the access request includes the identifier of the one of the affiliation sites ~~a~~
15 ~~specific site affiliated with the service provider site~~ when a predetermined processing is to be performed with regard to the response information; and

performing the predetermined processing based on a result of determination.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 6, wherein said predetermined processing is a processing for

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preparing an electronic mail in response to the response
information and transmitting the mail via the communication
5 network to another terminal which is different from the user
terminal, the mail being transmitted to a terminal belonging to
the ~~specific site~~ one of the affiliation sites when the response
information is transmitted from the ~~specific site~~ one of the
affiliation sites and to a terminal belonging to the service
10 provider site when the response information is not transmitted
from the ~~specific site~~ one of the specific sites.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture
comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable
program code means embodied therein and for responding to a site
access in which a service provider site for providing contents
5 via a communication network transmits, when an access request is
made from a requesting terminal, contents of the service provider
site to the requesting terminal in response to the access
request, the service provider site storing identifiers of
affiliation sites affiliated with the service provider site, the
10 computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for determining whether
or not the access request from the requesting terminal is made
via ~~a specific site affiliated with the service provider site~~ one

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of the affiliation sites based on whether the access request
15 includes the identifier of the one of the affiliation sites;

computer readable program code means for changing a part of
the contents to be transmitted to the requesting terminal to
predetermined information corresponding to the specific site one
of the affiliation sites when the access request is made via the
20 one of the affiliation sites specific site; and

computer readable program code means for transmitting the
contents including the predetermined information to the
requesting terminal to wait for a user verification request from
the requesting terminal to start service provision; and
25 storing user information of the requesting terminal relating
to the service provision into a session control table relating to
the one of the affiliation sites.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture
comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable
program code means embodied therein and for verifying a user who
makes an access request to a service provider site via a
5 communication network, the service provider site storing
identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service
provider site and user verification information for members of

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each of the affiliation sites, the computer readable program code means comprising:

- 10 computer readable program code means for determining whether or not the access request is made via ~~a specific site which is affiliated with the service provider site~~ one of the affiliation sites based on whether the access request includes the identifier of the one of the affiliation sites; and
- 15 computer readable program code means for conducting user verification based on the user verification information ~~which is registered with the specific site~~ when the access request is made via one of the affiliation sites ~~the specific site and conducting user verification based on user information registered with the~~
- 20 ~~service provider site when the access request is not made via the specific site.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein and for providing by a service provider site to a user terminal via a communication

5 network a service ~~items~~ item corresponding to an access request from the user terminal, the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service

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provider site, the computer readable program code means
comprising:

- 10 computer readable program code means for providing to the
user terminal a predetermined contents corresponding to a service
item designated by the user terminal;

- computer readable program code means for receiving a
response information relating to the provided contents from the
15 user terminal via the communication network and determining
whether the response information is transmitted from one of the
affiliation sites based on whether the access request includes
the identifier of the one of the affiliation sites ~~a specific
site affiliated with the service provider site~~ when a
20 predetermined processing is to be performed with regard to the
response information; and

computer readable program code means for performing the
predetermined processing based on a result of determination.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A method of providing a home
page of a service provider site and a home page of an affiliation
site affiliated with the service provider via a communication
network, the method comprising:

- 5 receiving a request for the home page from a user by the
affiliation site;

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transferring the request to the service provider site by the
affiliation site;

determining whether the user is a member of the affiliation
10 site by the service provider site; and

transmitting ~~an original a~~ home page to the user by the
service provider site when the user is the a member of the
affiliation site and ~~a modified home page when the user is a
member of an affiliated provider; in the modified home page an
15 identification of the service provider included in the original
home page being changed to an identification of the affiliated
provider.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim
11, wherein the service provider site receives the request is
~~transmitted from the user of the affiliated provider includes~~
with an identifier indicating that the user is a member of the
5 affiliation site affiliated provider and it is determined
determines whether the user is a member of the affiliation site
~~service provider~~ based on ~~whether the request includes the~~
identifier.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim
12, wherein the service provider site modifies the home page

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based on the identifier of the affiliation site when it is
determined that the user is a member of the affiliation site

- 5 ~~modified home page is created by changing the identification of
the service provider included in the original home page to an
identification of the affiliated provider based on the
identifier.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim
12, wherein the service provider site updates charging
information for the user and charges the affiliation site when it
is determined that the user is a member of the affiliation site,

- 5 ~~further comprising-~~

~~charging the user when the user is the member and charging
the affiliated provider when the user is the member of the
affiliated provider.~~

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claims 16 (Cancelled).